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BIG BOOST FOR EAST

"Injection for E. Germany" — West Berlin Paper

The results of the Moscow discussions will give East German industry an injection which will make it possible for it to catch up with West Germany, the West Berlin financial paper "Berliner Wirtschaftsblatt" stated on July 27th.

"The 'secret' of West German revival is due both to German abilities and the big American help which we received soon after the end of the war. The same abilities are present in East Germany . . . all that has been lacking there was the financial injection. Now they are getting it, and it is only a question of time before East German industry catches up both in quantity and quality."

Great Atom Plant: Big Credits

Living standards in the German Democratic Republic are due for a rapid rise in the near future, following the conclusion of important economic agreements in Moscow on July 17th.

Here are the main points of the agreement, concluded after two days of discussions between the Soviet Government and the Government of the German Democratic Republic:

1. The Soviet Union will supply Democratic Germany with all necessary blue prints, equipment and materials for building an atomic electric power station with an output of 100,000 kilowatts — more than twice the output of Britain's Calder Hall atomic power plant.

2. The Soviet Union will extend long-term credits on very favourable terms to the German Democratic Republic. Figures on the size of the credits have not been released, but informed circles in Berlin state they are "very big indeed".

3. Trade exchanges between the two countries, already large, will be considerably increased. The Soviet Union will pay for part of its imports in free currencies which can be used for purchases on the open world market.

4. Far reaching measures will be taken to achieve the most rational use of the industrial potential of Democratic Germany, particularly in such fields as machine tools, fine mechanics and optical goods.

5. Democratic Germany's contribution to the upkeep of Soviet troops stationed in Germany will be halved, from 1,600 million marks to 800 million marks. The money saved will be used to develop the industry of the German Democratic Republic.

Commenting on the agreement, Prime Minister Grotewohl stated: "This means a great economic help for the German Democratic Republic. It will make it possible for us to stride forward successfully to the building of socialism. It will make it possible for us to demonstrate vividly to the whole German people the advantages of Socialism."

In the political portion of the agreement the two governments reiterated their view that German unity could only be achieved by means of talks between the German Democratic Republic and the (West) German Federal Republic.

(Communique on the agreements on next page)

"SOCIALISM IS GERMANY'S FUTURE" — Prime Minister Grotewohl

Socialist measures such as land reform and the expropriation of monopolies are necessary in the whole of Germany if a decent reunified Germany is to be achieved, Otto Grotewohl, Prime Minister of the German Democratic Republic, stated in East Berlin on July 20th.

Prime Minister Grotewohl, who was addressing the cabinet on the results of the Moscow discussions, reported on this page, stated:

"The question of the reunification of Germany is not just a formality. It must be regarded in conjunction with the principles of the social and economic structure which has been established in the past ten years in the German Democratic Republic. Land reform, the expropriation of the property of the monopolists and war criminals, the ending of the educational monopoly are such far-reaching social accomplishments that it is not simply a question of their maintenance and inviolability.

"We believe that the putting into effect of these principles in the whole of Germany provides the only platform which can lead Germany by peaceful paths to a social system which will provide all Germans with prosperity, peace, a high standard of culture and a high standard of living.

"The results of the Moscow discussions give us the basis for raising the living standards in the German Democratic Republic. What is now necessary is our work to use the chance to the best advantage.

"When we seize the chance fully, and the standard of living is raised to the full extent which the Moscow agreement has made possible, then the German Democratic Republic will have a much stronger position from which to negotiate on the question of German unity."

Document of the Day

MOSCOW AGREEMENT TEXT

The talks took place in an atmosphere of complete mutual understanding and sincerity, leading to agreement on all matters discussed.

Guided by the desire to collaborate toward further development of the economy of the German Democratic Republic and raising the material wellbeing of its populace, the Governments of the Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic agreed as from Jan. 1, 1957, to reduce the German monetary contribution levied under the said agreement for the maintenance of Soviet troops in Germany from 1,600,000,000 marks to 800,000,000 annually.

The halving of the German contribution toward the cost of maintaining Soviet troops is connected with the considerable cut in Soviet military forces, which includes the reduction in numbers of Soviet troops stationed in Germany and the consequent reductions of military budgetary expenditure.

Both sides also confirmed their agreement on the considerable increase of mutual supplies during 1956, over and above those called for in the existing trade agreement and including granting to the German Democratic Republic by the Soviet Union of free currency for purchases of essential goods on the open world market.

They also confirmed the agreement of granting to the German Democratic Republic long-term credits on favorable terms.

Several other important questions were also discussed touching on economic cooperation between the two countries on mutually beneficial terms.

Both sides agreed to take measures to insure fuller and more rational implementation of the industrial potential of the German Democratic Republic and to increase mutual deliveries of machinery and equipment suited to modern technologies and other products and materials.

As the outcome of the discussion on measures of economic character, the German Democratic Republic will receive during 1957—1960 big additional resources for the development of her economy.

It was agreed to set up in the German Democratic Republic an atomic power station of 100,000 kilowatt capacity.

The Soviet Union will render aid by preparing the blueprints of the station and supplying the German Democratic Republic with the necessary equipment and material.

The talks covered an extensive exchange of opinion on international questions of interest to both sides. Full identity of views on the most important international questions was established.

Both parties are unanimous in their view that the relaxation in international tension recently achieved creates favorable conditions for reaching an agreement between states, above all between the great powers, on the question of disarmament and the adoption of effective measures for obtaining all-European security.

The reduction of the armed forces of the great powers, the unconditional banning of atomic and hydrogen weapons, the establishment of effective controls for carrying out these measures, would undoubtedly contribute to the further improvement of the international situation and the growth of trust and cooperation between the states.

Both Governments consider that the attempts of certain powers to make disarmament dependent on any conditions whatever can only prevent the solution of the disarmament problem and the settling of other political problems as well.

The initiative recently taken by the Government of the German Democratic Republic in reducing the size of its National People's Army, the proposal of the Government of the German Democratic Republic to limit the sizes of armed forces both in West and East Germany and to ban the stockpiling of atomic Weapons on German territory, as well as other measures of the Government of the German Democratic Republic taken in the interest of lessening tension in Germany, create real possibilities for mutual understanding between the German Democratic Republic and the (West) German Federal Republic on issues vital to the German people.

The Governments of the Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic at the same time pointed out that the introduction in West Germany of compulsory general military service in opposition to the wishes of the German people creates serious difficulties in the way of the settlement of the national problems of the German people and prevents the improvement of the political situation in Germany and in Europe as a whole.

The responsibility for this state of affairs is borne by the present Government of the German Federal Republic.

Taking into consideration that the Soviet Union, during recent months, has cut down the number of its troops in East Germany by more than 50,000 men, the Governments of the Soviet Union and of the German Democratic Republic appeal to the Governments of the United States, Great Britain and France to cut in their turn the number of their own troops stationed on the territory of the German Federal Republic, with a view to ultimately recalling all the foreign troops from the territory of Germany.

The Governments of the Soviet Union and of the German Democratic Republic are convinced that now, eleven years after the end of the war when the existence of two sovereign German states is widely recognized internationally, the presence of foreign troops on German territory cannot be considered as normal.

The Government of the German Democratic Republic stated that, guided by the interests of the whole German people, all its activities were devoted to the re-establishment of national unity of Germany as a free, peace-loving and democratic state.

The Soviet Government stated that it extends full sympathy and understanding to this aim of the Government of the German Democratic Republic, which expresses the just national aspirations of the German people.

Constantly keeping to the Leninist principle of the right of national self-determination, the Soviet Government considers that the restoration of German unity is the affair of the German people themselves.

Both sides expressed complete unanimity that under existing circumstances there is only one way to unite Germany and that is by means of talks and agreement between the Governments of both German states — the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic.

The Governments of the Soviet Union and of the German Democratic Republic express their assurance that the measures agreed upon during the talks will lead to further strengthening of friendship and fraternal cooperation between the Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic, which has set its feet firmly on the way to Socialist development — a valuable contribution to the cause of peace and security in Europe.

Signed:

N. A. Bulganin, Soviet Union

Otto Grotewohl, German Democratic Republic

(The text of the communique has been slightly shortened.)

"NO TROOP REDUCTION" SAYS ADENAUER

"Fewer Soldiers Mean More Wars"

West German Chancellor Adenauer has categorically opposed British and American suggestions that the number of occupation troops in West Germany should be reduced, it was officially stated in Bonn on Sunday.

The announcement followed an emergency Ambassadors' Conference, called in Bonn by Chancellor Adenauer. The official West German Government announcement stated in part:

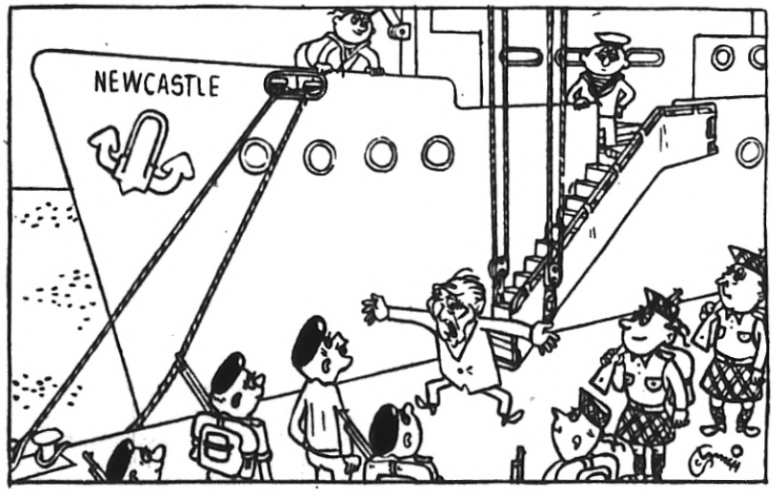
"Chancellor Adenauer conferred on Saturday evening with the (West) German Ambassadors in Washington, London, Paris and Rome. The reason for the conference was the public discussion on the changes in principle in the military planning of the United States and Great Britain. The basic idea in this change would be a reduction in the strength of the troops, accompanied by a more prominent role for nuclear weapons.

"The Chancellor would regard such action as extremely grave, not only for Germany and Europe, but for the whole of humanity. He believes, in agreement with the cabinet, that an emphasis on nuclear weapons and a reduction in army strength would heighten the danger of atomic war in case of a conflict. The reports given by the ambassadors have confirmed the Chancellor's opinion".

After the conference the West German Ambassadors to Britain and the United States returned to London and Washington to protest against any possibility that the occupation troops in West Germany should be reduced.

At the same time it was announced in Bonn that there could be no question of reducing the strength of the West German Wehrmacht. The target strength for the West German Wehrmacht, now in process of formation, is 500,000, considerably larger than the British Army. A West German Government spokesman stated on July 20th "There can be no question of any reduction in this target figure."

(The Governments of the German Democratic Republic and the Soviet Union have repeatedly proposed that all occupation troops should progressively be removed from both halves of Germany, and that the governments of the two German states should meet to discuss mutual limitation of their armed forces.)



Adenauer: "Back, back, you shan't go home. Only over my dead body!"

(Caricature by Erich Schmitt, "Berliner Zeitung")

Graduates Shun Wehrmacht

Less than one percent of West German high school graduates want to be an officer in the new West German Wehrmacht, according to reports from Munich.

In the past few weeks, 62 recruiting officers, all former members of the Hitler Wehrmacht, visited high schools throughout Bavaria to recruit boys of 18 as officers. They engaged less than one recruit each — a total of 54 officer candidates from a school leaving total of 7500 young men. In many schools the pupils demonstratively turned their backs while the recruiting talks were being delivered.

Jailed Because he Wasn't a Nazi

A West Berlin court has just sent a man to prison for 18 months because he had not been a member of the nazi party.

The man, Herr Schell, had claimed to be a member of the nazi party removed from state office after the war during the denazification period. As a result of his claim he had been paid 18,000 marks (about 1,700 pounds) by the West Berlin authorities as "compensation".

Later investigations proved that Herr Schell had never been a nazi, so he was sent to prison.

"Tomorrow the Whole World"

Nazi song-writer Hans Baumann has won a literary prize sponsored by the West German city of Brunswick for the best book for young people.

Herr Baumann made his name in the thirties with the song "Heute gehört uns Deutschland, und Morgen die ganze Welt" (Today German belongs to us: tomorrow the whole world).

Awarding the prize, the city director of Braunschweig Dr Erich Lotz described the nazi song-writer as: "A torch-bearer of light and source of enthusiasm for our youth."

Political Sentences Continue in West Germany

West German courts are still handing down long prison sentences for progressive political activities. On July 13th the Federal Court in Karlsruhe sentenced three leading members of the West German Communist Party to a total of nine years in prison on charges of "high treason".

The only action charged against them was the preparation and distribution of the programme of the Communist Party. The prosecuting attorney stated that it was treasonable to spread this programme since it called for the removal of the Adenauer Government.

Fritz Rische and Josef Ledwohn were sentenced to 3½ years imprisonment, and Richard Scheringer to two years. All three men had previously been sentenced to terms of imprisonment by the nazis.

TWENTY-FOUR YEAR GIRL MAKES GOOD AS VILLAGE MAYOR

By Gerhard Bengsch

One sunny morning in the spring of 1955 a motor-cycle bumped its way over a rutted country road into the little village of Kleinrettbach. Clinging to the shoulders of the man in front of her, Sonia Koch looked a little doubtfully at the peasants' cottages huddled together like sheep in a storm, and rather wished she had come earlier to have a look at the village where she was to work.

The choice of a mayor for Kleinrettbach had fallen to the Socialist Unity Party after the last village council elections, and Sonia had accepted the appointment.

The man at the handle-bars, an instructor from the district committee, pulled up and said to her: "You can walk the last bit and get to know the village." He shook Sonia's hand, smiled encouragingly and drove off.

Sonia walked slowly on, crossed the bridge over the tiny Rettbach stream which gave its name to the village of 349 inhabitants, and asked the way to the mayor's office of a small boy standing in front of the village public house.

"Just over there to the left, behind the cemetery wall", said the boy, looking her over out of the corner of his eye.

A window in the pub burst open and a tall man leaned out: "Hey, are you the new mayoress's daughter?" he shouted.

"I'm the mayoress", she called out, "and who are you?"

But the window slammed shut and Sonia could hear roars of laughter, giggles and rude remarks coming from the room within. It was the morning of May 2nd and some peasants had drunk too deep the day before. They were still not quite clear in the head and could not get over the joke that a 24-year-old girl had been sent here as mayoress.

The next few hours went by like the wind. The representatives of the democratic parties met to approve her appointment, and then the village committee came to make her acquaintance. The official take-over followed — an important job which took some time, what with protocols and inventories of papers, furniture and property of the mayor's office which had to be handed over to her in good order.

Towards evening, an old Socialist Unity Party comrade presented Sonia to the villagers in a general meeting. This old comrade, who had come from the town, had fought in the resistance movement and had spent years in concentration camps. He had the respect of the villagers, and nobody laughed or scoffed so long as Sonia stood beside him on the platform and told them about her past life.

Her father was a mechanic, and when she left school at fourteen, she did what so many girls did at that time — learnt to be a hairdresser. But she did not keep it up very long, for those were the days, just after 1945, when the workers' and peasants' power was being built up in the German Democratic Republic and young people were encouraged to take up difficult and important work. She went into a factory, then became a tram conductress, and afterwards worked in the Free German Youth organisation. After that she was ill for a long time, but when she recovered she attended various party and administrative training courses.

Her last job before volunteering for work in the country had been in the district administration.

Things livened up during the discussion which followed.

"That's all very fine and good," objected Bauchspiess, a narrow-shouldered man with a wrinkled face, "but she comes from the city and doesn't know a thing about farming!"

"She doesn't know anything about our village," grumbled another.

"But she'll learn," the old comrade replied, "and the village committee must help her."

There was a good deal of such talk, and many if's and but's before the meeting broke up. Kleinrettbach had had four mayors during the last few years, and none of them had been up to the job. The new one would have to show what she was made of. Her past life seemed all right — if only she hadn't been a girl!

"A girl — and trained as a hairdresser! Just wait till we see her perming the cows' tails," said one peasant on the way home, and roared with laughter at his own joke.

Sonia heard it too, gulped down a sharp retort, and laughed with the others.

But she did not feel a bit like laughing as she sat in her lonely office looking over the names and details of the villagers. They were all middle peasants, none owning less than about 14 acres, and most of them between 15 and 30 acres — of good fertile land, half as fertile again as much of the land in other districts. They were distrustful, too, and not easy to interest in new things. There would be no chance of going over to cooperative farming for some time to come, although there were many agricultural production cooperatives in the neighbourhood.

Sonia put the lists aside and considered the possibility of making a start with a cooperative cattle pasture. That would of course be only a beginning, but she must make it and win the peasants' recognition and trust.

She sighed and went to stand by the door. Lights were lit in the cottages, and the windows seemed to blink slily and mistrustfully at her. She thought anxiously of the days stretching before her, for she knew she had a fight on her hands.

Listening to the jokes and laughter earlier in the day, Sonia had almost regretted her offer to come to Kleinrettbach. But now she drew a deep breath of the damp, hay-scented country air and closed the door firmly.

A few weeks later, Sonia and the villagers had got used to each other, and she got many a friendly greeting in the street, for she had already seen to the completion of the village bakery, made some necessary alterations to the kindergarten and got the smoky old public house renovated.

But it was not all sunshine. The day came when the new mayoress had to make herself unpopular with at least one peasant.

The previous mayor had allowed Arthur Bauchspiess the use of the communal barn, although the village owned fields and needed the barn for itself. So Sonia had to find a way to get it back.

To her surprise, when she spoke to Bauchspiess he was reasonable, but it was clear that he needed a barn — if not this one, then another — otherwise he would have to leave his fodder reserves in the open. So Sonia went through the lists and found that one peasant, Trautwetter, owned two barns and rented another. She asked him to come and see her.

Trautwetter soon saw that the new mayoress wanted to get the rented barn away from him and hand it over to Bauchspiess, so as to get back the communal barn.

"Well," he said thoughtfully, "you're right there. I have three barns and Bauchspiess will have none if he has to give up the communal barn. But I don't think the exchange will work."

"Why not?" asked Sonia in a friendly tone.

"Because I have to keep my pigs in the rented barn."

"But why aren't they in the pig-sty?"

This was what Trautwetter was waiting for. "Can't use the stall, and I can't repair it without cement", he answered.

"How much do you need?"

"Well, about three sacks," he answered, exaggerating somewhat. "But where are you going to get hold of that?"

He went away grinning, for he was quite sure the new mayoress would never get a permit for three sacks of precious cement for anything so unimportant as a pig-sty.

But he got his permit, Bauchspiess got his barn and the village could use the communal barn again.

Summer came, and Sonia went out in the fields to help with the harvest, although this was not really part of her job. People appreciated this and her authority increased, especially amongst the women. Arthur Bauchspiess was also her friend now, since she had settled the barn question so satisfactorily.

But Trautwetter also had friends, amongst whom was Edwin Henneberg, who had brought back all sorts of little foreign habits with him on his return from an American prisoner of war camp, such as ploughing with gloves on.

Henneberg came to the mayor's office in the autumn and asked for a permit to slaughter two pigs. But his case was not so simple, for he was behindhand with his delivery quota for the last two years without any adequate excuse. He appeared quite indifferent to these debts to the state.

Sonia definitely refused him the permit. "You must first make up your arrears", she said. "You don't need to make them up all at once, for they are already too big. But you must at least start to make a real effort to pay up. I cannot give you a permit until you do this."

Henneberg swelled with rage. "How dare you interfere with my private arrangements", he shouted, banging his fist down on the table. "You know nothing about farming anyway."

He hoped to frighten the young mayoress, dashed out of the room, shouting "I shall slaughter without a permit then!" and slammed the door behind him.

Sonia followed him "Herr Henneberg, would you please come back", she said quietly.

Thinking she had changed her mind, Henneberg came back.

"You can bang the door at home", she said smilingly, "but here you must do it quietly". She looked him firmly in the eye and Henneberg actually closed the door quietly behind him.

This little incident soon got talked of in the village, and Sonia now had the laughers on her side. Henneberg grumbled for a while, but then began to make up his arrears.

Sonia has now really established herself in Kleinrettbach, and the villagers approve of her measures. Her proposal to start a cooperative cattle pasture has been accepted.

She knows that she is in the front line of the fight for socialism on the land; she knows it is a hard fight and that it will take longer in her village than in many other places. But she is young and is not afraid of a fight.

(From „Neues Deutschland", Berlin)

WEST BERLIN GLITTERS, BUT...

By Wilfred Burchett

It was an awe-inspiring experience to visit Kurfurstendamm, West Berlin's luxury shopping street, after an interval of seven years. For flashy cars and well-clad burgers, for elegant girls, well-stocked food and wine shops, it can compare with and perhaps even out-shine anything in Rome, Paris or London. It impresses and this is exactly what it is intended to do. It is in fact the thirty thousand million dollar show-window of Western Germany. It reflects the thirty thousand million dollars the USA pumped into Western Germany as an investment in the cold war — with Berlin getting proportionately the biggest slice.

Many of the cars bear foreign number plates, fashionable shops boast they can serve customers in any of half a dozen or more languages. In the food shops French Martell cognac rubs shoulders with Italian Chianti, Spanish Malaga and a score of other varieties of wines. Stolid German burgers in Homburg hats and every shade of well-cut grey suits march up and down the Kurfurstendamm, cigars in mouths, grey clad wives with dachshunds on leashes hanging on their arms. In any of the boulevard cafes you can count on seeing two or three sword-slashed faces and a monocle or two among the sleek types sipping coffee and staring moodily ahead into space. One can almost see the Wehrmacht and SS uniforms hanging in their cupboards.

The varieties and quality of food and wines, the elegance and cut of men's and women's clothes, the exquisiteness of the materials are such as most Germans have never seen before — not in Germany at least.

In the well-lit showrooms, there is a tastefully displayed variety of cameras, radios, electric gadgets, tape recorders and other fruits of the genius of German technicians and the industry of German workers. It is an impressive show, and seeing it, it is not hard to believe that Western Germany has an export trade several times the pre-war figure.

Stalin Allee, the new shopping and residential centre in East Berlin is also impressive. Not the same elegance, not the same proportion of imported goods, not the same quality in clothing, but a wonderful display of cameras, optical equipment, radios, type-writers and accounting machines, plenty of house-hold appliances

and also wellstocked food shops. There is less emphasis on luxury here, the range of radios and the general presentation of articles is not so good. There is more emphasis on items within the reach of ordinary people.

It took me a couple of visits to both Kurfurstendamm and Stalin Allee, however, to realise a fundamental difference. It is not so much the difference in the number of cars, or in people's dress. In Stalin Allee women have children hanging to their arms and not dog leashes. They have baskets and shopping nets in their hands and not elegant parasols. The people in Stalin Allee are there to buy and not to look. Stalin Allee is theirs, the main shopping centre of the capital of a workers' and peasants' State.

Kurfurstendamm is more the showwindow. Buyers in the shops are few, window-gazers many. A few streets back from Kurfurstendamm one sees ordinary Berliners, dressed in ordinary clothes shopping in not so wellstocked shops. One has the impression they feel out of place in their shabby clothes in Kurfurstendamm. It is not theirs. It is for the wealthy and above all for the foreigners.

What both Stalin Allee and Kurfurstendamm have in common is that they reflect the astonishing recovery of Germany industry — helped by the fact that the Potsdam agreements banned the conversion of their new or newly rebuilt industries to defence needs when the "cold war" reached flashpoint in 1950 with the outbreak of the Korean war. Seeing the variety and quality of goods it is easy to believe official figures that show both East and West Germany have doubled the pre-war industrial output.

This meant a much greater effort on the part of the Democratic Republic. Western Germany had the Ruhr with the biggest heavy industrial plant in Europe outside of the Soviet Union. The German Democratic Republic had to start by creating its own heavy industry. Bonn received thirty thousand million US dollars, the German Democratic Republic built with only its own hands and brains and in addition paid five thousand million dollars worth of reparations out of current production. Bonn shrugged off its reparations responsibilities and paid almost nothing. The German Democratic Republic was — and still is — subject to the economic blockade with which the Western powers tried to bring it and the other People's Democracies to their knees.

Stalin Allee today shows that the German Democratic Republic has been able to keep abreast and even slightly ahead of West Germany in those industries which it acquired intact at the end of the war. It is lagging behind in newly created industries but now that a substantial heavy industry has been built up, West Germany may soon begin to find itself overhauled and even outstripped in many fields. Cameras and optical instruments, type-writers and book-keeping machines, films, long-playing records, and books and basic foodstuffs are of equal or better quality in Stalin Allee and substantially cheaper than in Kurfurstendamm based on one West mark equalling one East mark.

The East German authorities have had to clamp down a complicated system of controls to prevent West Berlin speculators buying up cameras, typewriters, gramophone records and other goods in quantity, causing shortages of supplies and selling them off at enormous profits in the West. This sort of speculation is made possible by the fantastically unjust exchange rate in West Berlin which enables West Berliners to buy four East marks for one West mark.

The items which I found substantially cheaper in Kurfurstendamm are motor cars, textiles, Perlon, shoes and leather wear. In the German Democratic Republic, there is a sort of luxury tax on these items gradually being reduced as factories come into full production and raw materials become available. I am assured that actual production costs are not higher than in West Germany and on the export market, East German cars and textiles compete favourably with those from across the border.

For a brief look at what the two Germanys are producing, there is nothing like a stroll along the two shopping streets. But Stalin Allee by no means reflects the whole enormous effort made by the East German workers and technicians. While they were building up their own industry they have given a substantial helping hand to undeveloped countries, helping the latter to break through the fetters by which the Western monopolies kept them under-developed.

One example is India. The Indian film industry is second only in quantity of production to that of the USA. Consumption of film is enormous. India approached British and then American film manufacturing companies to instal a film factory. The reply was in each case "No". The fantastic reason was given that climatic conditions in India were unfavourable for film manufacture. In India, of course there is every conceivable variety of climate but it was much more profitable to continue selling film to India than to build a plant which might well supply not only Indian needs but also much of the Far Eastern market. The German Democratic Republic was approached and, after on the spot inspection, offered to build a plant. The British and American firms immediately changed their minds and also made offers. At present it is not sure who will build the plant but at least the monopoly is broken. There are many other such examples.

In Egypt, Syria, the Sudan and the Lebanon, in India, Indonesia and Burma, the German Democratic Republic has been delivering entire factories with the technicians to instal them and train local technicians to take over. Cement factories and textile mills, harbour equipment, chemical plants and pumping stations, fertilisers and machine tools.

These are things one does not see in the Stalin Allee — but one does see the workers that make them. One sees their wives and children too and that also is a great difference between it and its counterpart in West Berlin. They have the satisfaction of knowing that everything they see in the Stalin Allee shop-windows, they made themselves without any outside help. Today, they have the added satisfaction that the government of the German Democratic Republic has no thirty thousand million dollar bill to foot.

Many of them saw for themselves on their television sets a few nights ago how Adenauer was settling part of that thirty thousand million dollar account with the USA when he introduced the conscription bill to set up the new West German Army. In West Germany, workers will soon be put back into uniform again.. Even the sleek burgers of Kurfurstendamm, as they sip their morning coffee, would do well to cast their minds back to the late thirties in the hey-day of the Goering guns-before-butter years, when Kurfurstendamm presented a sad and poverty-stricken spectacle with shops stocked with ersatz foods and ersatz textiles in favour of first-class authentic guns, tanks and planes.

West German Medal for Franco General

The West German Government has decorated General Moscardo, who was one of General Franco's aides during the Spanish war, with the "Grand Cross of the Federal Republic", West Germany's highest distinction. Hermann Schmidt, member of the Social Democratic fraction in the West German Parliament described the decoration as "an act of great tactlessness."

BOOK CORNER

LEST WE FORGET!

„Harvest of Hate" by Leon Poliakov. Elek Books, London, 21 shillings

We all know of the nazi campaign to exterminate the Jews of Europe, but as the years which separate us from the Second World War pass there is a danger that we may forget the details of this incredible methodical campaign.

Leon Poliakov, former archivist in the Paris "Centre de Documentation Juive Contemporaine" has written a basic book on the subject, a book based almost entirely upon the nazi documents in the case: it is of course a horrifying book, but it is very much a volume which must be read, not only by those interested in Germany, but by anyone interested in the future of humanity. For Mr Poliakov shows how the "mild" policy of discrimination, segregation and "Apartheid" originally inflicted by the nazis on the Jews, inevitably grew into the ferocious campaign of extermination.

And as you read the book, you must always bear in mind that men like Hans Globke, the man who wrote the nazi legal commentary to the racial Nuremberg Laws in 1935, the first step to the gas chambers, is today State Secretary in the West German Government and personal adviser to Chancellor Adenauer.

Are people in fact forgetting these fantastic nazi crimes? That such a danger is felt is shown by the three separate introductions to this book, all of which stress that we must not forget. The introduction to the English edition is by Lord Russell of Liverpool, himself author of "The Scourge of the Swastika", a study of nazi war crimes. Lord Russell writes:

"There are those who take the view that all this should by forgotten. I think that they are mistaken and that it is only by reading such books as 'Harvest of Hate' that we may be able to avoid reaping the harvest of oblivion."

The introduction to the original French edition is by Francois Mauriac. He writes: "Your first impulse on opening this book may well be to close it again rather angrily; we have had our fill of these shocking stories and we want to forget them, we want to forget that we are all involved, simply because we are human beings... May the reading of this book become an event in our lives, may it put us on guard against any return of our ancient hatred that we have found in our heritage and that we have seen bear vicious fruit during the dark days of Adolf Hitler."

And the introduction to the American edition is written by the noted theologian Reinhold Niebuhr. He writes:

"This is such a sorry chapter both in the history of mankind and in that of Germany that there is a general inclination to forget the chapter... Different people will draw different conclusions from this tragic story. But it is better, as the author has done, to let history speak for itself in order that any reader may gather such lessons from it as his competence or inclination will allow... We will no doubt be diligent to avoid recreating the historical conditions which made these noxious fruits possible."

I wish that I felt as confident as Reinhold Niebuhr, American theologian, that his government, for instance, was being "diligent to avoid recreating the historical conditions".

But I think that all of us can do something by reading this book, and making it known. We must not allow ourselves to forget, and we must not allow others to forget. Then perhaps we can stop it happening all over again.

CONCENTRATION CAMP DOCTOR TO OPEN CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

A nazi woman doctor who was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment for the crimes she committed while camp doctor in Ravensbrueck concentration camp is now planning to open a children's hospital, the West German newspaper "Die Tat" reported on July 28th.

The woman, Herta Oberheuser, was sentenced to 20 years in prison by a United States court in Nuremberg on August 20th 1947, after being found guilty of murdering and torturing prisoners in the camp. She was released by the U.S. authorities after serving less than one quarter of her sentence.

Frau Oberheuser is at present practising as a doctor in the town of Stocksee, Schleswig Holstein. As a result of public protests she was dismissed from a Catholic hospital nearby where she had been working.

Now she intends to open a children's hospital in order to make herself independent, "Die Tat" reports.

Frau Oberheuser gathered experience as a children's doctor in Ravensbrueck concentration camp. Here are a few excerpts from a statement made by Ingeborg Sahlmann, a prisoner who survived the war:

"The room was filled with straw for the new patients, mostly pregnant Gypsies from Auschwitz camp. Oberheuser did everything possible to 'speed-up' the births in the most primitive and horrible fashion. When she was finished we had to clear up the 'remnants' as Oberheuser described it. These 'remnants' consisted of torn little baby bodies and mothers who had bled to death. The room looked like a slaughter-house."

* * *

Professor Dr Siegfried Ruff, one of Dr Herta Oberheuser's co-defendants in the trial of nazi doctors, is now head of the West German "Institute for Aviation Medicine" in Bad Godesberg. He was accused of killing concentration camp inmates in low pressure experiments during the war. During the trial Dr Ruff stated: "I did not regard such experiments as immoral, particularly in war time."

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

Do you remember the "Three-De" campaign in West Germany immediately after the war? That was when British and American statesmen never tired of proclaiming that Germany was going to be de-nazified, demilitarised, and de-cartellised.

In the past few years, as everyone knows, the whole programme has gone into reverse: I shall not weary readers again with details of renazification stretching into the highest quarters of the government, nor of the remilitarisation which is going ahead quite openly.

But perhaps not enough has been said about re-cartellisation. It was brought to my mind very forcibly a few days ago when I saw big advertisements in many West German papers, decorated with a portrait of August Thyssen, one of the most famous robber barons of the Ruhr. I reproduce here the first few lines of this advertisement in the original German:

110 Jahre nach der Gründung unserer ersten Werke, 8 Jahre nach der Entflechtung der deutschen Montanindustrie wurden

vor einem Jahr die HÜTTENWERKE PHOENIX AG und die RHEINISCHE ROHRENWERKE AG durch die Fusion zu einer Einheit in der PHOENIX-RHEINROHR AG

Here is the translation:

"110 years after the founding of our first works, 8 years after the de-cartelisation of the German iron and steel industry, one year ago the HÜTTENWERKE PHOENIX AG and the RHEINISCHE ROHRENWERKE AG were fused to form the PHOENIX-RHEINROHR AG."

I have not go space to give the remainder of the advertisement, but it goes on to say: "Thus the technical and economic cooperation established by August Thyssen in the form of the Vereinigte Stahlwerke has been partially restored".

So what? Just this. This advertisement, if you read it properly and know the background, is an insolent cry of triumph from the industrialists of the Ruhr that they have kicked British and American post-war decartellisation in the face. Read the wording again: 8 years after de-cartellisation ... Thyssen's steel trust has been restored. Admittedly the text says "partially restored" but the wording leaves you to assume that the whole empire will be re-established pretty quickly.

Most people have rather short memories, so let us just have a look at the dusty yellowing files of newspapers issued immediately after the war.

First let us look at the Potsdam Agreement, signed on August 2nd by Stalin, Truman and Attlee. Article 12 of the agreement stated: "At the earliest practicable date German economy shall be decentralised for the purpose of eliminating the present excessive concentrations of economic power as exemplified in particular by cartels, syndicates and other monopolistic arrangements".

A few months later, General Eisenhower (remember him?) in a report on December 1st 1945, named Thyssen's Vereinigte Stahlwerke as one of these cartels which had "been guilty of such war crimes as the exploitation of slave labour and the looting of property in occupied countries".

General Eisenhower's heart may not have been in the job of de-cartellisation, but there was big public pressure for action in both Britain and America, so, after a lot of shilly-shallying, ordinances were promulgated in the British and American Zones on February 11th 1947 forbidding the continuance or formation of large industrial and commercial trusts.

I think the reasons given for this action are worth quoting at length from the official proclamation:

"1. To prevent Germany from endangering the safety of her neighbours and again constituting a threat to international peace;

"2. To destroy Germany's economic war potential;

"3. To ensure that the measures taken for the reconstruction of Germany are consistent with peaceful and democratic purposes;

"4. To lay the groundwork of a healthy and democratic German economy."

Another period of thumb-twiddling followed, until November 10th 1948 when the British and US military authorities issued "Law No. 75" which specifically stated that the Vereinigte Stahlwerke AG and the remainder of the Thyssen Trust was "obnoxious" and should be liquidated.

And, in case you are wearying, here is the last date I want to give you in this sad but well-documented story: On November 22nd 1949, after the formation of the West German Government, Chancellor Adenauer signed an agreement with Britain, France and the US stating: "In the field of de-cartellisation and monopolistic practices, the (West German) Federal Government will take legislative action corresponding to the decisions taken by the High Commission".

If you have read the foregoing paragraphs carefully I think you will be forced to agree with me when I say that the Ruhr bosses have now not only kicked Britain and America in the face, but that they are also bragging about it.

And of course the process of re-cartellisation has not been confined to the Thyssen Trust. All the other big trusts and big banks which helped Hitler to power, supported his war effort, and exploited prostrate Europe, are doing the same.

What does this rebuilding of the great industrial empires of the Ruhr mean. It means, in the eyes of the men who drafted the Anglo-American de-cartellisation ordinance of February 11th 1947, quoted above that West Germany now:

endangers the safety of her neighbours and constitutes a threat to international peace;
provides Germany with an economic war potential;
means that reconstruction will not be peaceful and democratic;
undermines the groundwork of a healthy and democratic German economy.

All of which is serious enough, I think, to justify my devoting this page to a study of what some people may feel to be a dull subject.

Just a footnote: in East Germany, the factories of Thyssen and others like him were all nationalised. They are now run by their workers and can never threaten Germany's neighbours, or world peace.

Personal column

Here, in conclusion, is a personal note for many friends in all parts of the world. On July 24th my wife Georgia gave birth to a fine daughter here in East Berlin; Georgia and our daughter Miriam are both doing well. The event may explain any misprints or other imperfections in this issue of the paper.

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